





INTIMATION

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

WINES AND SPIRITS.

On and after the 1st April, 1904, the Prices of our Wines and Spirits will be as follows—

PORT.

(For Tawada and General Use.)

- B. Vintage, superior quality, Red Cap... \$4.40
- C. Fine Old Vintage, superior quality, Black Seal Cap... 16.30
- D. Very Fine Old Vintage, extra superior, Violent Cap... 26.40

Port after removal should be stored for a month before use. Wine required for drinking at once should be ordered to be decanted at the Dispensary before delivery.

These wines are well known to need comment. Sample bottles and smaller quantities will be supplied at proportionate wholesale rates.

We guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

SHERREY.

Per doz. Case

- B. Superior Pale Dry, dinner wine, Green Seal Cap... \$10.80
- C. Maudslayi, Pale, Natural Sherry, White Cap... 12.00
- D. Superior Old, Pale, Natural Sherry, Red Seal Cap... 12.00
- E. Extra Superior Old Pale Dry, very finest quality, Black Seal Cap... 20.40

B, C, and D are excellent dinner wines or for family and delicate drinking. D and E are after dinner wines of a very superior vintage. All are true Xmas wines.

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CLARET.

Per doz. Case

- B. St. Etienne, Red Cap... \$5.36
- C. St. Julien, Red Cap... 9.60
- D. La Rose, Red Cap... 12.96
- E. Sainte Poy, Red Cap... 7.20
- F. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- G. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- H. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- I. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- J. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- K. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- L. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- M. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- N. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- O. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- P. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- Q. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- R. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- S. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- T. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- U. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- V. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- W. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- X. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- Y. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44
- Z. Chateau d'Arnaud, Red Cap... 13.44

Our Claret, including the lowest price, are guaranteed to be the genuine product of the vines of the grape, and are not artificially made from raisins and cane sugar, as is generally the case with cheap wines.

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HOOK.

Per doz. Case

- Nierstein... \$2.00
- Radebeim... 21.00
- Hochheim... 24.00

Chablis, white wine... 15.00

BURGUNDY.

Per doz. Case

- Morault, superior white wine... 18.00
- Volney, very superior white wine... 21.00

MADEIRA AND CHAMPAGNE.

Full particulars of the various Brands on application.

BRANDY.

Per doz. Case

- A. Hennessy's Old Pale, Red Cap... \$14.40
- B. Superior Very Old Cognac, Red Cap... 16.20
- C. Very Old Cognac, Red Cap... 16.20
- D. Hennessy's Finest Very Old Cognac, Red Cap... 36.00
- E. Finest Very Old Cognac, Red Cap... 48.00

All our Brandy is guaranteed to be pure Cognac, the difference in price being merely a question of age and vintage.

Sample bottles and smaller quantities will be supplied at proportionate wholesale rates.

We guarantee our Wines and Spirits to be genuine when bought direct from us in the Colony or from our authorized Agents at the Coast Ports.

WHISKY.

Per doz. Case

- A. Thomson's Blend, White Cap... \$10.80
- B. Watson's Blend, White Cap... 10.80
- C. Watson's Blend, White Cap... 10.80
- D. Watson's Blend, White Cap... 12.00
- E. Watson's Blend, White Cap... 14.40

Our lowest priced Whisky is of excellent quality and of greater age than most brands in the market. We recommend our customers not to be deceived by the name of the brand, but by trying them all. For a full list of our Blend and Watson's Whiskies, see our list of prices.

Whisky (smoky), that could not be replaced in stock at the price. D and E are too well known to need comment.

AMERICAN.

Per doz. Case

- A. John Jameson's Old, Green Cap... \$12.00
- B. John Jameson's Fine Old, Green Cap... 15.00
- C. John Jameson's Old, Green Cap... 18.00

All these are very fine and old. C has been selected in Hongkong for food for 20 years, and being little used for food Whisky in this Colony.

GIN.

Per doz. Case

- A. Fine Old Tom, White Cap... \$7.20
- B. Fine Unsweetened, White Cap... 7.20

RUM.

Per doz. Case

- A. Finest Old Jamaica, White Cap... \$15.00
- B. Good Lowland Island, White Cap... 6.00
- C. Good Lowland Island, White Cap... 6.00

Sample bottles and smaller quantities will be supplied at proportionate wholesale rates.

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LIQUEURS.

Per doz. Case

- Benedictine, Maraschino, Currant, Fessing's Cherry Cordial, Chartreuse, Dr. Siegfried's Angostura Bitters, &c.

PRICES ON APPLICATION.

A. S. WATSON & CO., LIMITED.

THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

NOTICE TO CORRESPONDENTS.

Only communications relating to the Press should be addressed to "The Editor," and not to the proprietors, who are not responsible for the contents of the Press.

All letters for publication should be written on one side of the paper only.

No anonymous or signed communications that have appeared in other papers will be inserted.

Orders for extra copies of the Daily Press should be sent before 11 a.m. on the day of publication. After that time the supply is limited. Only supplied for Cash.

Telegraphic Address Press. Telephone No. 12.

DEATH.

At 215-C, Bluff, Yokohama, on the 11th inst., at 1.30 p.m., MONTANA LACOSTA, the beloved wife of J. P. Lacosta, aged 28.

The Daily Press.

HONGKONG, APRIL 14th, 1904.

THE PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE OPIUM ORDINANCE.

Under the consideration of the Legislative Council will now be a serious and important question, namely, the proposed amendment of the Opium Ordinance.

Some of the unofficial members seem to think that the Bill will prejudice the interests of the Opium Farmer, and that it ought therefore not to be passed, at all events until the expiry of the present term. As the Opium Farmer is to be heard by Counsel at the next meeting of the Council we shall then learn in what respect it is that he considers his interests are affected. It may be assumed, however, that he will not claim any interest in smuggling, and it is against the smuggling traffic alone that the Amending Bill is directed. The only legitimate sales of opium that the new Bill could interfere with would be possibly the small quantity of the drug required for consumption on the passage, which we should imagine would hardly be worth consideration. If this is the ground of the Opium Farmer's objection it might be easily met by the insertion of some provision allowing opium smokers to bring on board with them, or procure on board, the quantity they require for use on the passage. Assuming, however, that the Opium Farmer can establish a larger interest than that attaching to the consumption of opium on board the steamers, the question arises whether he should be reasonably compensated for any loss he may sustain by reason of the passing of the Ordinance or whether the steamers plying on the river should continue to be subjected to fine and forfeiture by the Chinese Customs for carrying against their will undecanted opium. To this we should think there could be only one answer, and it is rather difficult to understand how Messrs. CHATER, WHITEHEAD, and HO KAI can justify their votes against the first reading of the Bill, for it would be impossible seriously to contend that the legitimate trade of the port should be subjected to loss and injury in the interests of a monopolist like the Opium Farmer. If a mistake has been made in the original Ordinance, one of whose principal objects was the prevention of contraband trade, it is certainly not the steamer traffic that should in equity suffer for it. The matter is one to be settled between the Government and the Opium Farmer. The latter, if he can establish anything like a valid claim, will no doubt receive consideration, either by way of an abatement of rent or otherwise, but the case is naturally one which would not for very strict proof before the claim was allowed.

The present difficulty forcibly illustrates the objections there are to the continuance of the farming system. The usual term for which the Farm is let is three years, and as the purchaser takes it subject to the law existing at the date of his entry any subsequent modification of the law has to be made with due regard to his interests. The present amendment of the law is being made under direction of the Secretary of State, and for once we may say it is a fortunate thing that there is an official machinery to outwit those of the unofficial members who object to the Bill. That the amendment is a desirable one there can be no doubt, and it has been for some time recognized as such by the local Government, but it had been intended to postpone it until the expiry of the present term, and Messrs. CHATER, WHITEHEAD, and HO KAI still seem to think that would be the proper course. Mr. CHATER says frankly that sooner than risk a claim for damages from the Opium Farmer he would allow the present state of things to continue; but the proper course would seem to be to do what is right and run the risk of any claim for damages. If the Government, however, instead of farming out the opium revenue, worked it themselves, no such claim could possibly arise and no difficulty would be experienced in passing such legislation as might from time to time be required to meet new developments in the smuggling trade. The Government did once, when no acceptable offer was made for the Farm, work it themselves for a time, issuing the licenses direct, and the result proved very satisfactory from a revenue point of view. The same thing might be done again, and with great advantage. It may perhaps be thought that if the Government collected the revenue itself it would be more open to the attacks of the anti-opiumists. We fail to see anything in this objection, however, for the position of the Government from a moral point of view is exactly the same whether it collects the revenue directly or by the agency of a Farmer. Moreover, the anti-opium party will probably have its teeth drawn by the forthcoming report of the Opium Commission, and its opposition need not be seriously taken into consideration. But whether the Government collects the opium revenue direct or by means of a Farm the provisions of the Opium Ordinance Amendment Bill must command themselves to public approval. The only exception to be taken to the measure is that it does not go far enough. The protection it affords to the river steamers should be extended to coasting steamers also, for they likewise are subjected to loss and in convenience by the use made of them for smuggling purposes.

Two hundred horses in the most populous part of the Japanese district of Tokyo were destroyed by fire on the 5th inst.

The Chinese in Tokio have recently obtained the remains of two hundred and fifty of their deceased countrymen for the purpose of sending them to China. The deceased were the victims of the Japanese massacre in connection with the war.

THE GERMANY GUNBOAT.

The German gunboat *Itzeho* arrived here yesterday from Shanghai.

Business was done in Hongkong and Shanghai Bank shares in London yesterday at 23 1/2, and in Shanghai at 24 1/2.

It is notified that the driving of piles to mark the line for the foundations of the new bridge over the Yau Ma Tei Canal, from Ho Yau Street to Pottinger Street will be commenced on Monday next.

Vessels arriving yesterday report dense fog outside. It was an account of the fog that the *Itzeho* did not come in on Thursday night, and the *Itzeho* reports that she was delayed twenty-four hours.

At the Supreme Court yesterday, before His Honor Mr. B. J. Akeroyd, Acting Chief Justice, and a common jury, the hearing of the *Didier* sugar case was again resumed, and after another day of evidence was adjourned until this morning.

A very interesting and suggestive paper on "The Opium Problem" was read before the Old Volume last night by Mr. J. Nisio.

There was a large attendance, and a capital discussion ensued at the conclusion of the discourse. A vote of thanks was accorded to Mr. Nisio.

Among those who leave to-day in the troopship *Itzeho* are Mr. J. Nisio, Mr. J. Nisio, and Mr. J. Nisio.

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